

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 24, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

I am writing to call on the United States Senate to immediately establish a Select Committee to investigate the role of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and USA Gymnastics in allowing serial pedophile Dr. Larry Nassar unsupervised access to hundreds of girls across three decades. Today, Dr. Nassar was effectively sentenced to life in prison for sexual assault, following testimony from more than 150 girls and women who recounted his attacks. But not all of the responsible parties have been appropriately held to account. Dr. Nassar was able to commit these crimes unchecked for 30 years. This was not a case of negligence or failed oversight on the part of the USOC and USA Gymnastics. These organizations have serious questions to answer, including why they allowed this criminal behavior to occur, and they need to answer these questions publically before a Select Committee of the Senate.

The USOC is a federally chartered institution and its athletes compete under the American flag, so the Senate has a clear responsibility to expand this investigation beyond the narrow criminal charges adjudicated in Michigan. We must investigate the actions of the USOC and USA Gymnastics, including testimony under oath from coaches, executives, and other personnel of the organizations. Authorization for this investigation must include subpoena power to compel the two organizations to produce relevant documents and internal communications. A Select Committee is necessary because it would have an exclusive, undivided focus on the investigation and can be comprised of an equal number of female and male Senators.

In recent months, the American people have experienced an awakening with regard to the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and assault in the workplace; the complicity of businesses and executives in these crimes; and the silence imposed on the victims. It is time, now, to expose the scope and nature of sexual assault against vulnerable girls and boys under supervision of the USOC and its affiliated organizations so that these crimes are never allowed to happen again. To signal that the Senate understands the gravity and urgency of this matter, I urge that a Select Committee be established and its investigation commence on an expedited basis, and certainly before the Winter Games begin in PyeongChang on February 9.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator